***Galileo’s Daughter* by Dava Sobel**

**Directions for extra-credit for AP European History 1st marking period**

**Answers need to be in complete sentences and typed (12 font)**

**Due Date: Any time** *before* **the end of the first marking period**

**1.** What impressions or ideas did you have about Galileo before reading Sobel’s book? Did the book change any of your opinions, and if so, how?

**2.** How would you characterize Galileo's behavior as a father to each of his children? Was Galileo's relationship with Suor Maria Celeste an ideal father-daughter relationship?

**3.** Which aspects of convent life at San Matteo were most surprising or disturbing? In what ways would you consider life in a convent a positive choice for women during the 16th and 17th centuries?

**4.** Which arguments did Galileo employ to reconcile his scientific discoveries with his religious beliefs and the Bible?

**5**. Under pressure from religious groups, the Kansas State Board of Education decided in 1999 to remove evolution and the big bang theory from the state-mandated curriculum. The move was opposed by a group named FLAT (Families for Learning Accurate Theories), a reference to the idea that the earth must be flat. Discuss the conflict between science and religion in Galileo's lifetime and ours. How have religious beliefs affected public policy concerning genetic engineering, cloning, and education?

**6.** For what crimes or infractions was Galileo brought to trial? Did his accusers see him as truly a heretic or merely disobedient?

**7.** Viewed in this age of televised court cases, what did you think of the legal process of Galileo's trial?

**8.** How do you think Galileo would react to the news that pope John Paul II had called for a reexamination of his affair?

**9.** Which scientific ideas of Galileo's turned out to be wrong? Why did he dismiss the observations of Kepler? How could incorrect assumptions lead him in the right direction for establishing modern science?

**10**. Galileo's correspondence with his daughter reveals the value of many items in Renaissance Florence, from wheat and wine to thread and wedding dresses to Vincenzio's monthly allowance. Which were relatively costly, which inexpensive? How did their price compare to the value of a good farm, Galileo's first salary as a math professor, his rent in Bellosguardo and Arcetri, and the cost of a private room in the convent?

**11**. Why did Pope Urban VIII, once Galileo's ally, ultimately turn against him? How did external factors (the Thirty Years' War, alliances with France and Spain) affect his relationship with the scientist?

**12**. Galileo seems to have suffered from hernias, gout, and glaucoma. His elder daughter was plagued by headaches and tooth decay, and the younger may well have experienced major depression. How were these medical illnesses regarded during their lifetimes? What kind of home remedies did they use? How were doctors and surgeons regarded by the public at large and by Galileo?

**13.** Why did Galileo abjure his belief in the Copernican system? What do you think would have happened to him and his family if he had refused to abjure?